

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for expressing a soluble heterologous protein in bacteria comprising: transforming a bacterium with a vector wherein the vector contains a nucleic acid sequence which expresses ~~capable of expressing~~ thioredoxin and a nucleic acid sequence which expresses ~~capable of expressing~~ a heterologous protein; and culturing the bacterium under conditions wherein the thioredoxin and the heterologous protein are expressed as separate non-fused proteins and the heterologous protein is expressed in a soluble, biologically active form.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the vector is a plasmid.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid sequence which expresses thioredoxin and the nucleic acid sequence which expresses the heterologous protein are operationally linked to a common promoter.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the promoter is a lac promoter.
5. (Currently Amended) A vector which contains a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a thioredoxin protein and a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a heterologous protein wherein the vector expresses ~~is capable of expressing~~ the thioredoxin protein and the heterologous protein as separate, nonfused proteins, and wherein the heterologous protein is expressed in a soluble, biologically active form.
6. (Original) The vector of claim 5 wherein the vector is a plasmid.

7. (Original) The vector of claim 5 wherein the nucleic acid sequence which encodes the thioredoxin protein and the nucleic acid sequence which encodes the heterologous protein are operationally linked to a common promoter.
8. (Original) The vector of claim 7 wherein the promoter is a lac promoter.
9. (Original) A bacterium transformed with an expression vector containing a nucleic acid encoding a thioredoxin protein and a nucleic acid encoding a heterologous protein wherein the thioredoxin protein and the heterologous protein are expressed as separate proteins and wherein the heterologous protein is expressed in a soluble, biologically active form.
10. (Original) The bacterium of claim 9 wherein the bacterium is *Escherichia coli*.
11. (Original) The bacterium of claim 9 wherein the vector is a plasmid.
12. (Original) The bacterium of claim 9 wherein the nucleic acid which encodes the thioredoxin and the nucleic acid which encodes the heterologous protein are operationally linked to a common promoter.
13. (Original) The bacterium of claim 12 wherein the promoter is a lac promoter.